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Present Democratic Sentiment.

Democratic newspapers, at the South more particularly, are stirred up greatly by a report that Mr. CROKER is scheming to shape the national policy of the party in 1900 to suit the squeamishness of New York Democrats, by hiding away the currency issue of the Chicago platform. They assume that his plan is to have the Democracy repeat on a national scale in 1900 the policy of silence adopted by Tammany in the late campaign, and are incensed accordingly. This report, which probably has no other foundation than mere surmise, is supplemented by another conjecture that Mr. DAVID B. HILL has sent Mr. ELLIOT DANFORTH as a missionary to the South to work up Democratic sentiment for a like purpose of his own.

The Augusta Chronicle of Georgia denounces all such efforts as "insidious attacks upon the man who stands before the country as the leader of the people in the great fight against the money power," and it warns any Democrats who may be making them that they are digging their political graves. "The people," it says emphatically, "will not let New York dictate a gold platform, even to win New York's electoral votes."

The News of Chattanooga, in Tennessee, assuming that "CROKER's object is to side-track the silver issue and defeat BRYAN for the Presidential nomination in 1900," tells him hotly that the "silver issue is as strong as ever," that BRYAN is "enthroned in the affections of millions of unselfish patriots," and "will surely be the standard bearer of the party again in 1900."

The Constitution of Atlanta, in Georgia, is not so credulous, but pooh-poohs the story that Mr. CROKER is seeking "to place himself in the way of the Democratic tidal wave," saying very truly that "Tammany is Democratic or nothing," and "takes its politics straight." The Atlanta paper sees ahead an even clearer course for free silver coinage at the Democratic Convention in 1900 than there was in 1896, since "the next National Convention will be practically free from the obstructive element which undertook to dictate terms at Chicago, and finding itself in a hopeless minority, proceeded to give aid and comfort to the enemy."

These papers express, undoubtedly, the prevalent tone of Democratic sentiment at both the South and West, and even of the great body of the party in this State and throughout the East. If, therefore, there were any truth in the stories that Mr. CROKER and Mr. HILL have undertaken the fruitless task of resisting this overpowering feeling, it is manifest that they would be crushed under the bitter Democratic resentment they would draw upon themselves. The cry of 1896 is still the only call which arouses the Democracy to enthusiasm.

Congress and Coast Defence.

The additions which the Senate Committee has made to the Fortifications bill increase it by nearly five million dollars, and, indeed, much more than double it. The amount fixed by the House was \$4,144,912, and the total now is \$9,052,494. As the House accepted the conclusion of its own committee without change, so the Senate may adopt the bill in its present form, and, if so, it will have to be submitted to a conference committee.

The first point to note in the increased amount is that, while surpassing by several millions the average appropriations of the last six years, and while about \$1,700,000 ahead even of the great appropriation of the Fifty-fourth Congress at the session corresponding to the present one, yet it is less by nearly half a million than the maximum appropriation, that of last year.

If we look at details, some, at least, of the additions proposed by the Senate Committee ought to commend themselves to the House. The largest increase is that of the sum for emplacements for guns and mortars, from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000. It cannot be a very difficult matter to find out how much will fall due under existing contracts, at about the rate of progress hitherto made under these contracts. This amount should certainly be provided for, less any sum that remains on hand. But, in addition, if it appears that these emplacements will not be enough for the mounting of all guns and mortars that will have carriages ready for them at the end of the fiscal year, at the present rate of output of carriages, then for such additional emplacements there should unquestionably be appropriations made in the appropriation for purchasing forgings for heavy guns. As to this item it seems clear that if the ordinary work of the Watervliet factory during the next year will require the furnishing of that additional amount of forgings, the increase should be made. The object should be to keep the factory busy in routine employment, even though the guns are now much ahead of the carriages and emplacements, because it is wise to use our facilities for what will certainly be needed, sooner or later. The addition of nearly \$1,500,000 for steel mortars and their carriages may possibly be contested in the House at this time, although no one can contend that they will not ultimately be needed; but as to the increase for coast defence guns under contract, it is only necessary to see what amount will become due and payable under present arrangements and past rates of progress, and that amount should, of course, be voted.

An increase which seems to us to demand special study is that of \$343,500 for carriages for heavy guns. We have scores of guns ready to be mounted that have no carriages. It is therefore highly important to see just how much work will be done on carriages during the coming fiscal year, both in the public and the private works now building them, taking the present rate of work as the standard; and money to that extent should certainly be supplied. A similar consideration applies to the proposed increase for a reserve supply of ammunition. This supply should be made ample for the number of guns we are

likely to have mounted and ready for service by the end of the next fiscal year. The House is perfectly right in not wishing to appropriate more money than will, with the balances, be paid out during the next fiscal year; but if the Senate is able to show where, under existing contracts, and with the full routine use of appliances already at work for coast defence, more money is needed, the House should concur in supplying it. Above all, it should provide the means for having, by June 30, 1899, the greatest number of guns and mortars actually mounted and ready for service that is possible under the methods of work which the engineer and ordnance officers have adopted.

Pettigrew Disappoints Us.

PETTIGREW's great speech against annexation, so far as its contents appear in the unofficial reports of proceedings in executive session, was mainly devoted to the argument that the present Government of Hawaii is not the legitimate Government. That is to say, Mrs. DOMINIS is still rightfully the Queen, and she ought to have the chance, which her sweet soul craves, to behead President DOLAN and the other officers of the island republic.

There is nothing new in this. The Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND held the same opinion; and his interest in Mrs. DOMINIS was much earlier and perhaps even more active than PETTIGREW's.

The vigor and venom with which PETTIGREW of South Dakota pursues with his Sioux Falls rhetoric the trembling DOLAN and his Cabinet is equalled only by the energetic enterprise with which he followed up the same gentlemen, privately, when he was in Honolulu.

PETTIGREW's personal observations of the men who govern Hawaii and the story of his unofficial intercourse with them, if frankly and fully communicated to the Senate, would have made an uncommonly interesting speech.

It seems that he did not care to avail himself of the only method in his power to command the attention of the Senate and the country. It is a disappointment. We had almost expected to hear the virtuous PETTIGREW announce that the scoundrels of the Dole Government had tried to buy him when he was out there, investigating Hawaiian affairs at his own expense for the good of his country.

Public Holidays.

A bill has just been introduced into Congress to recognize Feb. 12, LINCOLN's birthday, as a public holiday. So far as we know, April 2 is not a legal holiday in any of the States or Territories; but Feb. 12 is, we believe, so observed in eight States, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota and Washington.

State holidays, however, are very numerous and varied in character, and it is quite a different matter to recognize them by national legislation. Some of them are purely local, like Jan. 8, in Louisiana, the anniversary of JACKSON's victory at New Orleans; March 2, in Texas, the anniversary of her Independence, and April 21, that of San Jacinto; April 19, in Massachusetts, for the battle of Lexington; May 20, in North Carolina, for the Mecklenburg Declaration; July 24, in Utah, Pioneers' Day; Aug. 16, in Vermont, for Bennington; Sept. 9, in California, for her admission to the Union. In Virginia, the two Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida Jan. 19, LEE's birthday, is a holiday, while the two States honor in like fashion June 3, the birthday of Jefferson Davis.

Even as to religious holidays there is a wide discrepancy among the States, Good Friday, for example, being observed as a public holiday in five, and All Saints' Day in only one. Labor Day is widely observed, yet not universally; Arbor Day is a legal holiday in over a dozen States, but there is a wide variety in the days selected. Decoration Day is May 30 in most of the Northern States, yet in the Southern States other days, and not the same in all of them, are chosen for the Confederate Memorial day. Congress has usually confined itself in this matter to recognizing certain universally observed holidays.

As to birthday holidays, it was a step of questionable wisdom ever to depart from the rule, which prevailed among us for generations, to reserve that particular honor for WASHINGTON alone. There are too many holidays as it is, and the list ought not to be increased.

Colleges and Temperance.

The speakers at the Yale alumni dinner on Monday evening paid much attention, serious or jocose, to the accusations of intemperance and consequent immorality, which the total abstinence organizations have been bringing against that university community. Prof. HADLEY, for instance, felt called upon to reply to them with the positive assertion that "Yale is still a first-rate place morally."

Obviously Yale cannot be so very bad, else hundreds of parents would not be sending their sons thither to spend four years of the period of their lives when such excesses and vices would be most ruinous for them. These parents know from actual observation what are the effects of the college associations on the boys, and if the dreadful stories about Yale published in the Prohibition organ and recited by the feminine temperance agitators were true, Yale would have to be deserted. They were justified, we should have to say, in their confidence in the careers of the great numbers of Yale graduates annually returning to every considerable community in the Union to recruit the ranks of the learned professions and of trade and commerce. The proof would stare us in the face; but, instead of running up against it, we discover by experience that the average of both moral and physical soundness is higher among college graduates than in society generally, and the average endurance greater.

In the present Senate, for instance, 53 out of the 90 Senators are college graduates. Out of the 357 members of the House of Representatives, 199 are college graduates. It appears, therefore, that the energy, physical and intellectual, which is necessary to political advancement, was not wasted in their college life by these men. The professions are filled almost exclusively by the colleges, and never was the strain on their members greater than it is now. Moreover, it is among educated men that the increasing moderation in the use of stimulants which now distinguishes refined society is manifested more especially. The growth of the passion for athletic sports and physical prowess which has been so remarkable in our colleges during the last generation has tended powerfully toward temperance. The heroes of the college world are the youth whose high bodily training compels abstinence and self-control.

And the college boy who exhausts his vitality with excesses falls under reproach, so that we are not surprised at the remark of a Yale student quoted by Prof. HADLEY, that "there is nothing that queers a man so badly for the best societies as drinking too much." Such a man falls below the standard of self-control established by the athletic spirit of the present college world, and extending from the actual athletes themselves throughout the student community. Self-restraint provokes admiration, and excess invites contempt as an indication of weakness.

The students of the Prohibition people on Yale and other colleges, however, will do them good rather than harm. They will stimulate still further the pride in manly fortitude against temptations to injurious indulgence which provokes the respect of the college world. Doubtless its inhabitants would be better off if they refrained from alcoholic stimulants altogether. Boys do not need them. Their natural supply of spirits is enough in itself, and the addition of a supply of the artificial sort is likely to make them run over into folly.

Comparatively Speaking.

What woes have been inflicted upon the young by the race of grammarians, and what strange inventions these conspirators against the English language try to foist upon the tender mind. Who would have believed that dogmatic grammarianism would have inserted itself into the comparison of adjectives in this surprising way: "truer" as, which has caused a good deal of dispute in the family.

"In the interest of domestic peace I pass this problem along to THE SUN, whose decision, I am sure, will be accepted by all parties concerned."

This Western Pennsylvania letter is the very transcendentalism of grammarianism. It supposes that certain adjectives describing a quality or color describe and represent the abstract perfect and quintessence of that color or quality, beyond which it is not permitted to go. Truth, the invisible, immeasurable, and utmost truth, although Mr. SHAKESPEARE, a careless author, didn't know it when he wrote "truer than truth itself." Black is blacker than it is painted, too, abysmal, preter-Cimmerian darkness, irrecoverable eclipse.

The King James version of the Bible adheres to the theory of comparative and comparable blackness: "Thy visage is blacker than a coal."

Mr. SHAKESPEARE, who may be supposed to have studied black somewhat when he was writing about the blackmoor of Venice, has no scruples about saying, in "Othello": "O, the more devilish, And you the blacker devil!"

In the same play he speaks of "the blackest sins." And who that ever read "Othello" cannot spout, "nor scar that whiter skin of hers than snow?" "Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow," says the psalmist.

There may be grammarians in western Pennsylvania who have never heard of Mr. SHAKESPEARE, but surely they know this little quotation: "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union."

"Truthful" seems to be a modern word, but "more truthful" and "most truthful" are of thoroughly good usage, just as "true" and "truer" are. The absolute and untrue heaven of truth is only a conception. Speaking of human approximations to the veritable verity, it is lawful to use the human comparisons. Thus we may say that Baron MUNCHAUSEN is more truthful than LARRY GORDON, and so on.

Notice that the young lady's teacher avers that the adjectives mentioned cannot be compared. It is a sufficient answer that they are compared. Almost any adjective can be compared at a pinch.

The Point Barrow Relief March.

The news sent to Seattle from the cutter Bear tells of the departure overland of the expedition under Lieut. JARVIS and BREITZ, which has gone to save from threatened starvation the crews of the whaling vessels caught in the ice off Point Barrow.

The tidings of their danger came toward the end of October, and a month later the Bear started from Seattle with the relief outfit. Twelve days took her to Unalakleet, and then the course was to Cape Nome, far beyond the Yukon. But with winter already at hand, Capt. TUTTLE had to be content with making Cape Vancouver and the neighboring village of Tannunok. Then the relief party landed, with dogs, sledges, and outfit, and started for the village, whence a trader was to pilot them on a sledge march of probably ten days to St. Michael.

When the enormous length of the journey from Cape Vancouver to Point Barrow is considered, the season at which it is undertaken, the route, the unknown character of much of the route, it must certainly appear one of great enterprise. It has, too, the discouraging handicap of hundreds of extra miles, imposed through not being able to land beyond the mouth of the Yukon, as had at first been hoped. The total journey from the landing place will exceed 1,400 miles, which will involve months.

It may be hoped that success will crown this journey, and that it will be completed in season to relieve the whalers.

Fire Furniture.

The record of fires in buildings professionally fireproof is the need of fireproof regulation of their furniture. Brick walls, iron beams and stone floors may be little better than nothing without restrictions regarding the inflammability of the property stored in them. There must be a regular fireproof-building "brand" of desks and chairs. They must be made of metal, or something that won't burn, to please the owner's taste. No common lath for plastering; no wood for casings, doors and windows. All must be made fireproof, or nothing will be fireproof. Private papers are the only things that can be permitted to remain liable to burn.

In regard to the condition of their laboring class, Mexico and the United States are far apart. But Mexico is the rising America the declining star-Denver Republic.

And catholic spirit, he has declined to say anything about the Chicago platform. Not a word from his honeyed lips about Bryanism. What Bryanism to Col. JIM GUFFEY? He feels that the record of the hour is Guffeyism and plenty of it.

For the benefit of collectors and in response to numerous requests, we repeat the information that Mr. FIDDIAN RAFFLES-MURK, for twenty-two years master of St. Bee's Grammar School and now Examiner in the University of Lahore, is the author of the ingenious, well-timed, powerful, and remarkable leading article in the *London Spectator*, in which the authenticity of the DUTCH DE LOON letter is assumed not to be proved, and deep and high reproach and warning are given to President McKinley. Many connoisseurs regard this article as the ablest in the long series of Mr. FIDDIAN RAFFLES-MURK's disquisitions upon American affairs.

It is another evidence of the earnest desire of Spain to maintain the most friendly relations with Cuba, and to give peace and prosperity to Cuba. —From *Yesterday's Herald*.

"We have where" [in the United States] "only one newspaper which, at intervals, defends our cause. I do not mention him because he is paid for it." —From *Canones del Castillo's Speech*.

The Hon. FRANK J. CANNON, a Senator in Congress from Utah, exhales this prophecy: "As things stand to-day BRYAN will be elected, two to one." Joyfully do we grasp the hand of "as things stand to-day" needed variant of the old truism, "If the election were to be held to-morrow." Mr. CANNON is incorrect, however, in matter, although praiseworthy in form. It is known to Mr. BRYAN's intimate friends that he will never consent to be elected by a vote of one man. He scorns so base, petty and commercial a ratio. His principles sweep with the years. Unless he is sure that he can be elected by a vote of 16 to 1, he will give up his job to JOSE SMILEY.

The SUN asserts that Mr. HERMAN H. KOHLBAAT, editor of the *Chicago Times-Herald*, formerly was a very good piece. On the contrary, the *Chicago Times-Herald* is a very good piece, but Mr. KOHLBAAT is a very bad piece. The piece, like the art of making a newspaper, is unknown to the *Chicago Times-Herald*.

What we meant to have understood was that KOHLBAAT made good Chicago pie. This must have been so, since by pie-making in Chicago he gained funds enough to indulge his disastrous thirst for Journalism.

It is saddening to find that the learned and sagacious *Indianapolis Journal* utterly misrepresents the fundamental principles of Populist education. It finds fault with the course of study in the Kansas Agricultural College, and a question of date, and the *Indianapolis Journal* is a very bad piece.

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CATHEDRAL TOWERS.

These are the towers of the Cathedral of St. Patrick, New York; of Cologne, of St. Paul's, Pittsburgh; of the Providence Dome. Recently, however, the plans of a new American cathedral have been published, for criticism, doubtless which the towers vary. The architect evidently felt the need of explanation, for he defends himself by appealing, I believe, to precedent. As the subject is of extreme interest, I consulted one architectural firm, and beg to add the judgment of one of its members.

The towers of Notre Dame (Paris) are the same height, the difference in them being in the width. The north one is slightly wider than the south one, but only a student would notice it.

The towers of Rheims are the same in height and width. It is therefore remarkable that there are slight differences (as in Paris), it is remarkable when we do not find them, for none of these towers was designed by one architect, but they were the work of many master masons, each one having a portion assigned to him.

It is a question of date, and the *Indianapolis Journal* is a very bad piece. What we meant to have understood was that KOHLBAAT made good Chicago pie. This must have been so, since by pie-making in Chicago he gained funds enough to indulge his disastrous thirst for Journalism.

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SALT RIVER'S BAD CONDITION.

There is no salt water in the river, and no navigation on a famous stream. Louisville, Feb. 15.—Congress will this week respectfully petitioned to give heed to the needs of Salt River. This stream, by far the most famous in political history, is in a sad condition, being at present navigable only to gasoline boats and politicians of the "has been" category. As the Illinois salt water is in a sad condition, an effort will be made to impress on Congress the necessity of appropriating \$250,000 for its improvement.

"To go up Salt River" is a phrase that runs back as far as the memory of men who voted for Jackson. In many parts of the country Salt River has been regarded as a myth. As a matter of fact, Salt River does exist, and is about a mile from Louisville as that. It is a tributary of the Ohio and drains one of the richest sections of the State. It rises in Mercer county and flows through Mercer, Anderson, Spencer, Bullitt, Hardin and Jefferson counties. It is bordered on both sides of its tortuous course by rich farm and tobacco lands. It is a beautiful stream, and its waters are pure and sweet. It is a great source of life and health to the people of the country. It is a great source of life and health to the people of the country. It is a great source of life and health to the people of the country.

When the floodgate is opened at all we know that the separate builders must have agreed to build a dam of some kind, and that it was probably planned to have made one tower eighteen feet higher than the other, though it is only the weakness of these towers that has been the cause of the present trouble. So far as I have spoken of the dam, it was a very bad piece. What we meant to have understood was that KOHLBAAT made good Chicago pie. This must have been so, since by pie-making in Chicago he gained funds enough to indulge his disastrous thirst for Journalism.

It is saddening to find that the learned and sagacious *Indianapolis Journal* utterly misrepresents the fundamental principles of Populist education. It finds fault with the course of study in the Kansas Agricultural College, and a question of date, and the *Indianapolis Journal* is a very bad piece.

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